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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 254

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA MONTANA

JULY, 1964

181,000 Workers in Non-Farm Jobs During June

June Employment Near Record— Non-farm employment in Montana moved forward for the fourth consecutive month as a gain of 6,600 jobs from May to June pushed the estimated employment level up to 181,000. The June labor market picture was highlighted by employment gains in all major industry sectors. Since the first seasonal job upswing started in March, 16,500 non-farm wage earners have been added to payrolls of the state's industrial employers. This June employment total was second highest of record bested only by the June 1963 figure of 183,300. Good employment directions are expected to carry through the next four months as more new work opens up in both industry and agriculture.

Employment Upsurge In All Groups —The over-the-month—May to June—seasonal employment upsurge was led by gains of 1,700 each in government and in the service industries. The payroll expansion in government was all at the federal level. The seasonal recall of work crews for the forest service, national parks, irrigation projects, and other facilities accounted for the bulk of this increment. More labor demand from hotels, motels, and resort areas as the pace of tourism quickened made most of the job gains in service industry segments.

The statewide construction work force expanded by 900 during June.

New projects included shopping centers, schools, college buildings, additions to lumber mills, banks, hospitals, among others. Employment also increased on existing projects of highways, dams, and industrial buildings. The re-building of railroads, bridges, highways, and other facilities after the recent flood also acquired many workers.

Other employment gains from May to June this year were in trade, up 900; manufacturing, up 600; transportation, utilities, and communications, up 500; mining, up 200; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100.

Farm Labor Demand Mounts—Farm labor demand perked up as more favorable weather covered most of the state by late June. Demand for farm and ranch workers will be a major labor demand factor from July to September. Haying, fruit, grain, corn, potato, and sugar beet harvests will provide thousands of additional jobs in the coming months. About 1,000 workers will be employed in the cherry orchards and packing sheds in the Flathead valley by late July.

Job Placements Approach 12,000—The 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 11,804 workers in jobs in industry and agriculture during June. Of this total, 8,469 went to work in agriculture and 3,335 in industry and commerce. The

state's industrial employers listed 3,546 job orders with local employment offices during June, nearly 150 more than a year ago. Job placements in trade industries totaled 804, followed by 755 in service establishments, 430 in manufacturing firms, and 243 in construction. The balance were in mining, railroads, public utilities, government, finance, insurance and real estate, and private households.

Summer Jobseekers Active—New job applications of 6,269 brought the total jobseeker count to 12,921 at the end of June. Both figures were nearly identical with the totals for June 1963. Many of these new entrants to the labor market were fresh from classrooms of high school and colleges. This is a normal seasonal occurrence every year at this time.

UCC Trust Fund Balance \$18,644,971 —A balance of \$18,644,971 remained in the Montana Unemployment Compensation trust fund on June 30, 1964 after benefit payments of \$5,442,483 to eligible unemployed workers from January through June of this year. UCC payments in two major counties increased over the comparable period of 1963. Benefit payments to Silver Bow county claimants increased by \$149,010 while the increase in Cascade county was \$141,836. A slight decline of \$8,728 was recorded in Yellowstone county.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	May 1964	Apr. 1964	May 1963	May 1964	Apr. 1964	May 1963	May 1964	Apr. 1964	May 1963	May 1964	Apr. 1964	May 1963
All Manufacturing	5.7	6.0	6.8	4.8	3.9	5.1	3.6	4.9	4.1	2.6	2.0	2.3
Durable Goods	7.0	7.7	8.2	6.0	4.8	6.2	4.3	6.7	4.6	3.1	2.3	2.7
Primary Metal	4.4	2.8	3.9	2.9	3.3	1.3	3.6	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.8	.8
Nondurable Goods	3.1	2.8	3.7	2.6	2.2	2.8	2.0	1.7	3.1	1.6	1.5	1.3
All Mining	8.9	10.4	7.8	6.3	5.2	5.8	6.6	7.1	9.7	3.8	2.7	4.9
Metal Mining	6.2	8.8	4.5	3.9	2.7	1.8	7.5	5.9	8.3	4.5	1.8	3.8

The increase in layoff rates (April) 1964 for Primary Metal Industries and Metal Mining is due to the secondary effects of the labor dispute with the Anaconda Company. The call back of these non-strikers is reflected in the increased Accession rates for these industries. * Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary June 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(245 jobseekers, 155 new, 146 men, 99 women). Economic climate of area displays brighter overtones highlighted by increased smelter hiring and some construction projects. Job hiring shows good upturn both over last month and last year. Young workers comprise most new job applications.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,717 jobseekers, 1,184 new, 1,789 men, 928 women). Employment climbing toward peak on most major building and highway projects. Yellowtail Dam work forces exceeds 1,100. Area highway projects employ 750. Work just starting on \$3 million college addition will employ 100. Trade and service industries responding to stimulus of increased tourism. Two new cafes will employ 60. Some farm activity hampered by wet weather during June but now making good progress.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(253 jobseekers, 429 new, 147 men, 106 women). Wet weather temporarily curbed some outdoor activity during June, including construction, logging, and agriculture. Farm job hires down 15% from June 1963. Log shortages caused temporary layoff of 50 men at one mill. Reopening of alfalfa mill after 30 day shutdown recalled 22 workers. Shortage of experienced farm and ranch hands exists.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,236 jobseekers, 469 new, 783 men, 453 women). Metal mine hiring continues to highlight labor market picture. Steady trends prevail in road and building construction with full crews now employed. Main street hiring reflects general optimism plus added boost of good tourist season.

CUT BANK—(340 jobseekers, 74 new, 251 men, 89 women). June employment activity was related chiefly to construction and restoration of facilities after the recent flood. Main street hiring suffers due to union-employer friction which keeps pickets at cafes and bars. New job applications and unemployment claims above last year.

DILLON—(76 jobseekers, 91 new, 50 men, 26 women). Construction and agriculture remain strong forces on the local labor market scene. New construction includes \$2 million gas pipeline. Work continues on earthfill dam, canals, bridges, roads, and building projects. Good demand for hay hands will extend through July and August.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(261 jobseekers, 169 new, 143

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)

	June 64	May 64	June 63	June 64	June 63
Civilian Work Force	269.9	256.6	268.8	13.3	1.1
Total Employment	258.2	243.8	257.5	14.4	.7
Total Non-agricultural Employment	213.3	203.8	209.3	9.5	4.0
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	181.0	174.4	183.3	6.6	-2.3
Total Agricultural Employment	44.9	40.0	48.2	4.9	-3.3
Labor Management Disputes	2	.2	*	.2	
Total Unemployment	11.5	12.6	11.3	-1.1	.2
Percent Unemployed	4.3	4.9	4.2		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.9	6.4		
*Less Than 50					

men, 118 women). Labor market trends were on the passive side during the first half of June due to wet weather and a short labor dispute involving work at the air base. Activity started to pick up both in industry and agriculture by mid-month. Service industry hiring fairly good but trends in trade establishments not too sharp.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(133 jobseekers, 91 new, 73 men, 60 women). Highway projects and farm activity slowed by wet weather during much of June. Work began on new shopping center. New church and 3 service stations also building. Sugar beet work behind schedule. Other farm activity practically nil.

GREAT FALLS, Chouteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,495 jobseekers, 823 new, 884 men, 611 women). Hiring trends showed improvement in most industries during June with the biggest upturn noted in trade segments. This pattern should prevail during the next 30 days. Rebuilding of flood damaged homes and facilities will require many workers the next few months. Smelter hiring slowed somewhat but still fairly active. Good demand for experienced farm and ranch help.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(279 jobseekers, 154 new, 163 men, 116 women). More than half of June jobseekers were younger workers. Logging and lumbering back in stride during June but with some temporary layoffs because of bad roads. More than 100 younger workers hired for forestry programs. Some farm activity, including haying and sugar beet field work, held up by weather.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(148 jobseekers, 89 new, 80 men, 68 women). Industry hiring shows some upturn but farm labor demand below normal due to bad weather. Railroad extra gangs transferred to other areas. New \$2 million high school nearly completed. \$244,000 street improvement project slated for early start. Employment

trends in trade units continue to lag. Farm labor demand will develop rapidly during next 2 months.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(554 jobseekers, 319 new, 317 men, 237 women). June labor demand exhibited more vigor than May but still was not too brisk. Wet weather was to blame in most instances. Logging and lumbering made good upturn in White Sulphur Springs and Lincoln. Work began on a new \$1 million shopping center. Service industry workers continue in good demand.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,040 jobseekers, 739 new, 795 men, 245 women). Rebuilding projects after flood devastation in Flathead valley and Glacier Park now underway. Highway, bridge, railroad, homes, and other building work included. Heavy in-migration of workers noted. Tourist traffic slowed and had temporary adverse effect on trade and service establishments. Pace of farm hiring quickens for haying and sweet cherry harvest.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(177 jobseekers, 93 new, 98 men, 79 women). Current labor market trends not too encouraging with declines in both industry and farm hiring from last year. Outlook for July appears brighter with start of haying and several new construction projects including city street and sewer repair work of \$450,000. Farm labor shortages expected to develop during harvest.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(198 jobseekers, 84 new, 114 men, 84 women). Rain throughout much of June reduced labor demand in most outdoor industries. Road construction was inactive most of the month. Logging also suffered and mills continue to operate on reduced schedules because of log shortages. Good hiring trends at cafes as tourist traffic increased did not extend to other trade segments.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.3	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.6	169.8	174.4	181.0*							

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary June 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(204 jobseekers, 124 new, 132 men, 72 women). Labor market demand kept fairly steady despite a wet June. Only slight declines noted from last year. Service industries provided most new job orders. Trade industry trends failed to keep pace. Some construction hiring despite lack of major projects.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,514 jobseekers, 687 new, 989 men, 525 women). Industry hiring exceeded last year but stayed even with last month. Good upturn noted in farm hiring. Activity in construction and service industries not up to expectations. Lumber manufacturing holds strong but clouded by possibilities of log shortages.

POLSON—(286 jobseekers, 138 new, 183 men, 103 women). Influx of youth and other marginal workers seeking work during the cherry harvest increased job application files during June. June employment trends not too sharp but good forecast seen for July with the start of the sweet cherry harvest and increased activity in logging and sawmill operations.

SHELBY—(205 jobseekers, 86 new, 139 men, 66 women). Steady trends covered most industry groups during June. Upturn occurred in construction, trade, service, and oil field activities. Flooding conditions caused some decline in tourist traffic.

SIDNEY—(180 jobseekers, 85 new, 116 men, 64 women). Most industry groups provided employment opportunities throughout June. Job hires increased 43% over last year with most of the gain in service industry groups. Trade industry hiring mostly for replacement purposes. Construction forces at near peak. Optimistic outlook on the farm front.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(128 jobseekers, 63 new, 89 men, 39 women). June job hires centered mainly in forest service work. Logging operations slowed by flood damaged road and bridges. Fairly good agenda of construction work in progress. New work upcoming in area includes school and bowling alley.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(143 jobseekers, 52 new, 95 men, 48 women). Fairly active trends prevailed in construction and service industries during June. Most new construction in form of residential and farm building projects. An average of 2 oil drilling rigs active throughout June with no change in oil exploration operations. Farm labor demand showed some decline due mainly to wet weather.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 843 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,239 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1964 (2)	May 1964 (3)	June 1963	May '64 to June '64	June '63 Against June '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	181,000	174,400	183,300	6,600	-2,300
Manufacturing	21,900	21,300	23,300	600	-1,400
Durable goods	14,300	13,800	15,600	500	-1,300
Lumber and timber products	9,300	8,900	9,300	400	00
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,200	00	100
Other (4)	1,700	1,600	3,100	100	-1,400
Nondurable goods	7,600	7,500	7,700	100	-100
Food and kindred products	4,100	4,000	4,300	100	-200
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,100	00	100
Other (5)	700	700	700	00	00
Mining	7,600	7,400	7,000	200	600
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,100	00	800
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	900	900	100	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,600	2,000	100	-300
Contract Construction	13,900	13,000	15,000	900	-1,100
Contractors, building construction	3,700	3,500	4,600	200	-900
Contractors, other than building	5,200	4,800	5,400	400	-200
Contractors, special trade	5,000	4,700	5,000	300	00
Transportation and utilities	18,000	17,500	18,300	500	-300
Interstate railroads	8,000	7,700	8,200	300	-200
Transportation except railroads	4,000	4,000	4,200	00	-200
Utilities including communication	6,000	5,800	5,900	200	100
Trade	41,800	40,900	42,200	900	-400
Wholesale trade	8,600	8,400	8,800	200	-200
Retail trade	33,200	32,500	33,400	700	-200
General merchandise and apparel	6,200	6,100	6,100	100	100
Food stores	4,500	4,600	4,900	-100	-400
Eating and drinking establishments	9,800	9,100	9,400	700	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,400	6,400	6,700	00	-300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,300	6,300	6,300	00	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,800	7,000	100	-100
Services and miscellaneous	25,100	23,400	25,400	1,700	-300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,700	3,300	4,800	1,400	-100
Personal services	2,200	2,100	2,100	100	100
Other (6)	18,200	18,000	18,500	200	-300
Government	45,800	44,100	45,100	1,700	700
Federal	13,500	11,800	14,200	1,700	-700
State and local	32,300	32,300	30,900	00	1,400
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,500	22,200	24,300	300	-1,800
Manufacturing	3,200	3,100	4,400	100	-1,200
Contract construction	1,900	2,000	2,500	-100	-600
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,900	5,900	5,800	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	3,700	4,000	200	-100
Government	4,200	4,100	4,100	100	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,300	23,600	23,900	700	400
Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,700	00	-100
Contract construction	1,800	1,600	1,600	200	200
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,600	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,500	7,400	200	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,300	4,400	200	100
Government	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	00

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

MONTANA LABOR MARKET

JULY, 1964

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 1964 AND JUNE 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	June 1964		June 1963		June 1964		June 1963		June 1964				June 1963				Wk. 7-3	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	155	3	181	6	245	23	352	24	131	18	149	14	81	13	94	20	106	115
Billings	1,184	139	1,316	212	2,717	486	2,512	403	537	1,264	1,801	203	514	801	1,315	205	667	569
Bozeman	429	40	430	56	253	43	343	44	243	60	303	40	236	72	308	45	63	50
Butte	469	44	608	88	1,236	177	1,145	174	94	11	105	21	100	8	108	41	459	319
Cut Bank	74	8	57	15	340	85	267	69	50	140	190	57	49	196	245	34	86	65
Dillon	91	22	83	29	76	8	105	18	30	68	98	41	33	84	117	43	25	40
Glasgow	169	13	106	4	261	18	207	6	86	16	102	17	90	46	136	20	61	67
Glendive	91	2	109	8	133	8	186	12	50	1,107	1,157	8	49	1,049	1,098	9	15	25
Great Falls	823	69	1,129	134	1,495	232	2,089	362	404	140	544	120	266	118	384	100	554	683
Hamilton	154	13	128	12	279	25	270	28	60	229	289	11	91	119	210	29	45	53
Havre	89	6	90	6	148	11	160	14	66	45	111	34	57	59	116	25	70	73
Helena	319	26	342	28	554	75	636	77	267	465	732	72	220	98	318	78	197	180
Kalispell	739	49	459	72	1,040	199	759	145	277	15	292	50	208	18	226	51	299	279
Lewistown	93	16	134	17	177	30	217	34	39	38	77	19	57	70	127	46	85	83
Livingston	84	72	4	198	15	205	18	106	21	127	26	113	40	153	37	57	48	
Miles City	124	4	168	17	204	14	176	21	68	700	768	12	74	723	797	19	58	61
Missoula	687	74	672	90	514	221	1,108	168	318	499	817	84	258	179	437	98	212	256
Polson	138	3	120	15	286	29	276	41	32	74	106	9	32	20	52	11	60	58
Shelby	86	11	94	9	205	22	188	20	58	31	89	16	43	41	84	19	32	39
Sidney	85	10	138	6	180	14	169	8	70	3,070	3,140	5	42	3,008	3,050	9	24	31
Thompson Falls	63	10	64	5	128	24	92	9	54	9	63	10	67	2	69	14	43	34
Wolf Point	52	4	63	7	143	25	83	18	39	15	54	9	36	20	56	8	58	45
TOTALS	6,198	566	6,563	840	11,812	1,784	11,545	1,713	3,079	8,035	11,114	878	2,716	6,784	9,500	961	3,276	3,173

*Includes 301 claims of the Fed. UC Program 214 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1964	May (2) 1964	June 1963	June (1) 1964	May (2) 1964	June 1963	June (1) 1964	May (2) 1964	June 1963
All Manufacturing	\$111.38	\$110.29	\$107.20	41.1	40.4	40.0	2.71	2.73	2.68
Durable Goods	108.16	106.11	106.37	41.6	40.5	40.6	2.60	2.62	2.62
Primary Metals	110.03	108.14	105.06	40.6	40.2	40.1	2.71	2.69	2.62
Nondurable Goods	117.60	118.89	108.67	40.0	40.3	38.4	2.94	2.95	2.83
Food and Kindred Products	110.08	113.26	90.09	42.5	42.9	38.5	2.59	2.64	2.34
All Mining	110.84	115.05	112.36	37.7	39.0	42.4	2.94	2.95	2.65
Metal Mining	112.48	112.48	108.47	38.0	38.0	39.3	2.96	2.96	2.76
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	108.39	108.81	103.49	38.3	39.0	39.5	2.83	2.79	2.62

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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